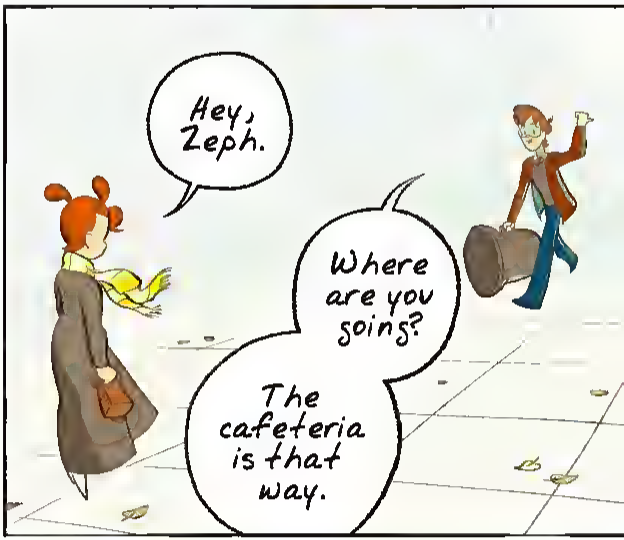
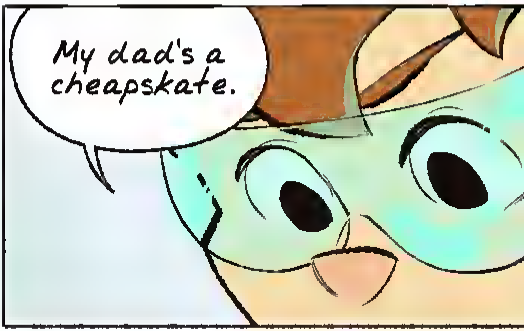
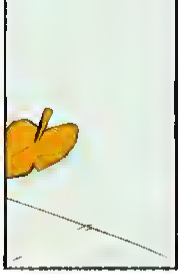

Hey, Zeph.
Where are you going?
The cafeteria is that way.

Oh, I can't eat with you guys today.

tuba at a garage sale for only five bucks.


My dad's a cheapskate.

Is it heavy to carry around?
It's not too bad.

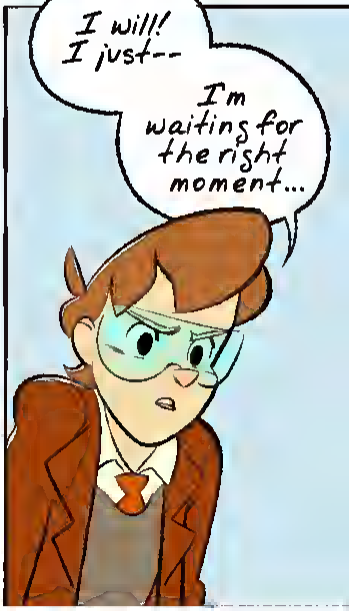


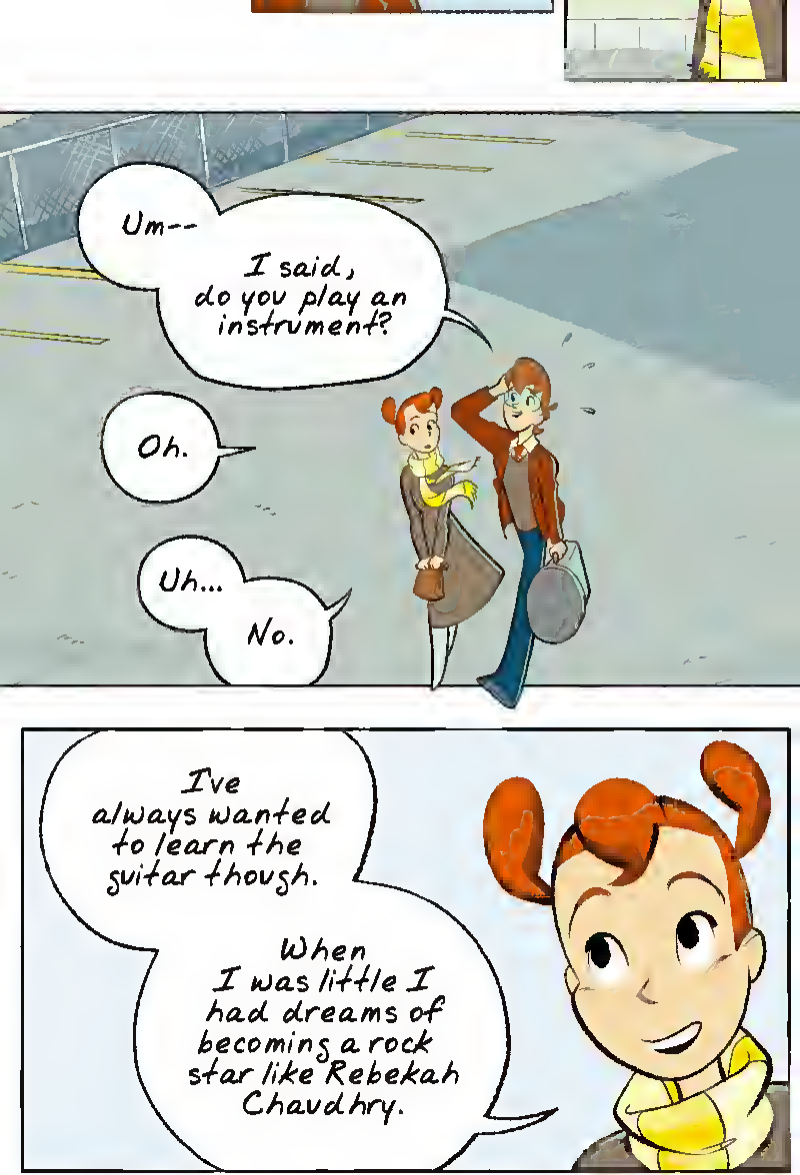
What's in that black case?
It's my tuba.
For marching band.

Ow...

Who?
She's the lead singer for Pumpernickel Lullaby.
Hmmm.

like her, you should ask her to the dance.


I will! I just--
I'm waiting for the right moment...


Um--
I said, do you play an instrument?
Oh.
Uh...
No.
I've always wanted to learn the guitar though.
When I was little I had dreams of becoming a rock star like Rebekah Chaudhry.

I didn't know you played an instrument!

Yeah...
I wanted to play the trumpet but my dad found this

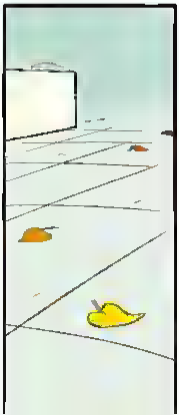
FOOMP!
Ow!

Be a man, Zeph!
If you don't act soon, someone else will.

I've got a meeting with the agriculture club over at the greenhouse.

Oh.

Well, let me walk you there.



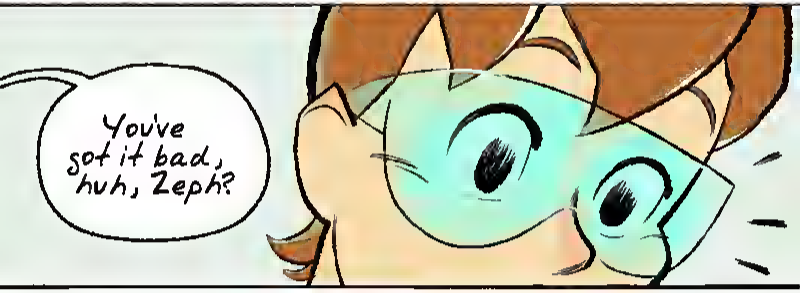
My friend Libby though, she has a heavy instrument. It's a cello.
It's almost bigger than she is!
Wow...
Do you play an instrument?
What?

Bye...

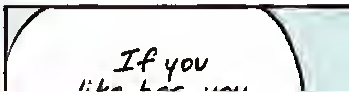
SLAM!

Sigh...

You're sweet, Zeph.
Thank you.


You've got it bad, huh, Zeph?

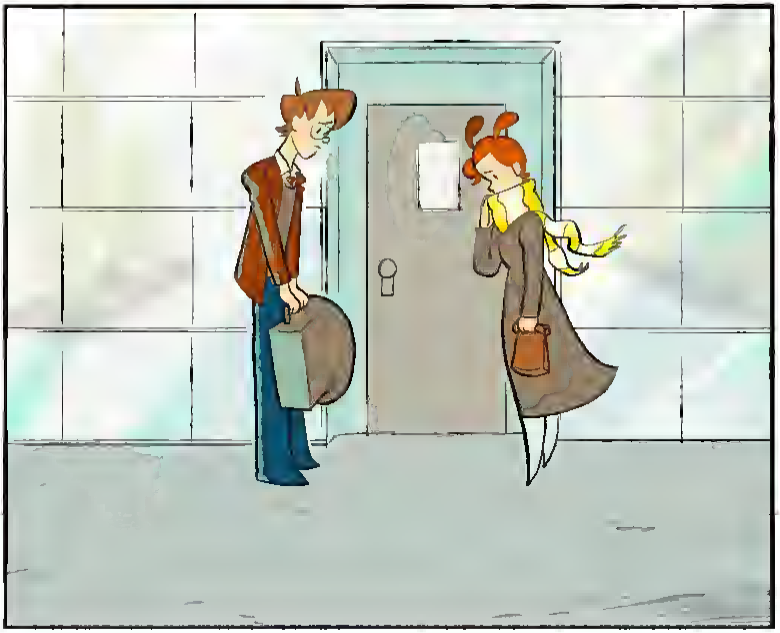
Meisha!
Don't sneak up like that!


If you

BLUSH!

Well, I'd better get to my meeting.
See you later!

these days...

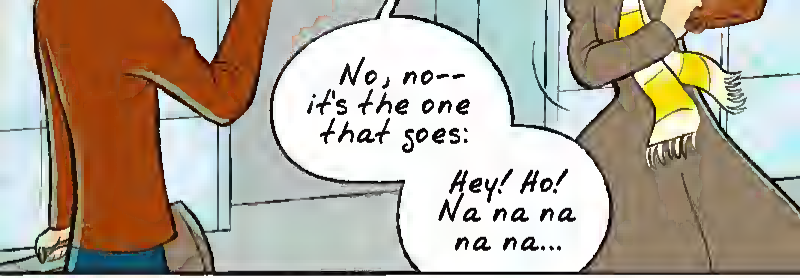


I'm sorry, Amy.

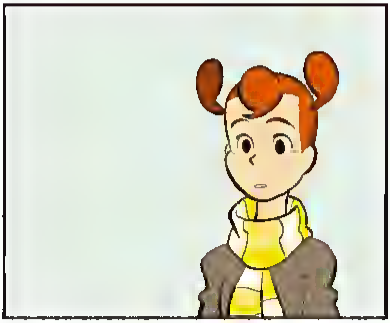
For what?

For...

I don't know.


No, no-- it's the one that goes:
Hey! Ho! Na na na na na...

Hmmm...
Sounds familiar...
Kind of...



Never heard of them.
REALLY?!
They did a song called Opal Oak-- surely you've heard that!
Is that the one that's like:
Dum dum dee dah dee dum dum...

SLAM!

Amy!

SPACE BOY

by

Stephen McCranie

@stephenmccranie

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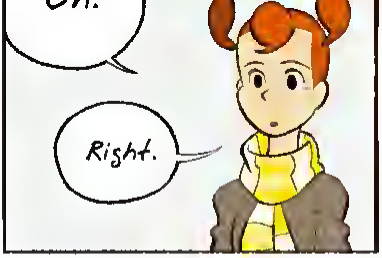
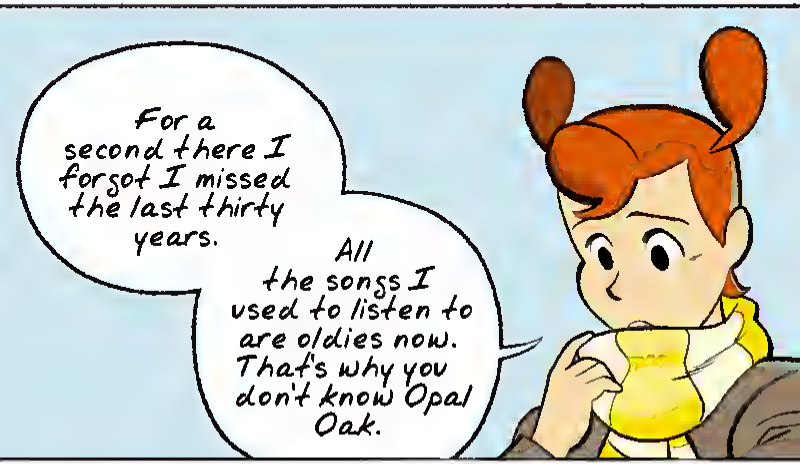

Oh.
Right.


For a second there I forgot I missed the last thirty years.
All the songs I used to listen to are oldies now. That's why you don't know Opal Oak.

Gosh, I wonder if Rebekah Chaudhry is